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Getting Rid of the VIP Syndrome in 2025



To the world, a VIP is a Very Important Person and he or she treated with respect and special attention. **In a spiritual and metaphorical sense, a Christian should not be a VIP in this new year the following context.** Read and consider this prayerfully:

Very Indolent Person

One of the problems for a teacher in the school is dealing with students who are lazy or who have a slothful attitude. It should not be spoken of a Christian that he or she is indolent in his work or service for the Lord. **We are to be good stewards and witnesses for Christ and laziness is not an edifying trait. Industry and hard work should characterize our conduct and behavior.** Rom 12:11-12 says, *'Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer'*.

Pro 15:19 says, *'The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain'* and Pro 26:15 says, *'The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.'*

So let us be diligent for the Lord this year both in the study of the Word and the service in His church. We need to heed the advice of Solomon in Pro 6:6, *'Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.'* A lazy student will not do well in an examination or a worker in the marketplace neither will a lazy Christian in life. **Industry not indolence should be the characteristic of a God honoring Christian.**



Very Impatient Person

Last year, we spoke of Approaching God with Patience. Someone once prayed, 'Lord, give me patience and I want it now.' Psa 27:14 says, 'Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.' Impatience has brought many problems to people. The building of the golden calf in Exo 32 was due largely to impatience in waiting for Moses to come down from Mt Sinai (Exo 32:1). King Saul offered the sacrifice on his own when Samuel, the prophet, delayed in coming purposely to test him and he failed the test. In Luke 21:19, Jesus advised, 'In your patience possess ye your souls.' Jeremiah in Lam 3:26 says, 'It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.' Let us remember Isa 40:31 which says, 'But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.' **We need to ask the Lord for greater patience as we wait upon Him for His soon second coming (2 Pet 3:9-15).**



Very Indignant Person

Anger in one letter short of **Danger**. **Those who fly into rage seldom make a good landing.** The author had once counseled an angry couple who got into a serious fight with each other and almost destroyed their marriage. You may have met indignant people before, and we do not think those were the best experiences in our lives. A furious man or woman often does something will he or she regret later. Eph 4:26 say, 'Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.' Col 3:5-8 speaks of things to mortify or put to death wherein anger or wrath are included. Anger is a choice, and no one can make you angry if you choose not to.



Pray and ask the Lord for self-control and temperance to regulate our emotion and bring it under subjection. Parents, do not provoke your children to anger nor exasperate them (Col 3:5-8). The wrath of man does not fulfil the righteousness of God.

Very Irresponsible Person

Life is full of duties and commitments and as a Christian, we are to be accountable and responsible stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Pet 4:10-11 says, 'As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the

oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.' 1Cor 10:31 gives us a good guiding principle. We must remember that ultimately, we are accountable to God one day or should not we use our talents and resources for Him.

When we led a Christian tour group to Greece and Turkey where we were at Corinth and saw the *bema* or judgement seat of Christ that was mentioned in 2Cor 5:10. Paul in 2Cor 5:10 reminds us, 'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; (bema) that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.' **We are to be faithful and dependable in our stewardship of the Lord's work and time (1 Cor 4:2) and be ready to give an answer one day before the bema. Let us be faithful in all the duties that are entrusted to us by God this year.**



Very Indifferent Person

Apathy is worse than antipathy. Are we indifferent to the work of the gospel, the study of the Word, the fellowship of saints and the reverential worship of the triune God? Pray for zeal and fervency for the things that are eternal rather than the temporal things of the world.



These are 2 big universal problems in this world, **ignorance** and **nonchalance** - **I do not know** and **I do not care**. There are people who have no burden for the kingdom of Lord with no desire for salvation of souls or prayer and they are just caught up with their own worldly affairs.

There are 3 kinds of people in this world - those who **make things happen**; those who **watch things happen**; those who **wonder what happened**. Some are so caught up with their own worldly affair that they are totally nonchalant about spiritual things. Beware that we do not fall into these 2nd and 3rd categories. Have fervent love and strong spiritual convictions in the will and work of God.

Very Indiscreet Person

We live in a world of trickery, deception and falsehood. We need to be spiritually wise and prudent in this treacherous and decadent world. We are not to be affected by the false teachings and the occultic and cultic deception of the evil one or even profit-making, romantic and tempting scams . Prov 9:10 says, 'The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the



holy is understanding' and James in Jam 3:17 says, *'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.'* There are some bible seminaries or theologians who will deny the virgin birth of Christ, the 6 literal day creation account, the physical resurrection of Christ, the

miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea and the universal flood during Noah's time. German criticism and naturalism have created widespread religious liberalism from the 19th to 21st century.

Many Christians are sold to the defective concepts of theistic evolution, compromised humanistic psychological concepts in biblical counselling in the Christian world rather than sound biblical truth and scriptural doctrine.

There is a US theology professor who doubted that Adam was a real historical person, and a former Archbishop taught that hell is only a figment of imagination created by God to frighten us to believe in Him. There are many who have endorsed homosexuality as an acceptable alternate lifestyle, cloning, abortion (woman's rights) and euthanasia under the guise of 'helping the terminally sick' at the expense of God's clear commands in His Holy Word. Do not be a VIP in this context.

Conclusion

Let us pray and seek the Lord and resolve to live this year in 2025 for the Lord with greater love for God and reverential fear, faith and zeal and be effectual stewards of the manifold grace of God till He comes.

Something to ponder and work upon his year and always with the help of God.

Jack Sin





Worship Chairmen Team



Music & Audio Visual Team



Ushering Team



Food Ministry



2025 Church Camp Committee



The Lord's Supper Preparation Team

Question:

I hope to understand the reasons for the verses in Matthew 17: 20, 21 about lack of faith, mustard seed, and casting out of demons.

Matt 17:20, 21

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”



Answer:

That is a good question These verses emphasize the importance of sincere absolute dependence on God in the ministry with the action of self-denial and sacrifice in the withholding of food and persistence in prayer to beseech God for divine assistance and not to take things for granted.

God requires genuine faith to be exercised (even if it is small) and the effort and total reliance on Him in order to be effective in our lives and service

Casting out demons was practiced by the Christ and the apostles in biblical times (Acts 5:12) before the completion of the canon but sometimes they failed in Matt 17:16 when they tried to do it in their own strength. It was a humbling lesson they would never forget when they experienced this failure.

A sober reminder to us as we begin the year to humbly seek God in fervent prayer in everything we do for Him with simple faith and self-denial and not think that we have inherent power in ourselves to cast out demons or heal others as seen in some mega church pastors or preachers.

Hope this helps

Jack



SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

CHURCH CAMP 2025

THEME:
WISE OR FOOLISH LIVING IN A SMARTPHONE ERA



DATES:

10-13 June 2025

VENUE:

Forest City Marina Hotel, Johor, Malaysia.

SPEAKER :

Rev Tan Eng Boo

CAMP FEES:

Twin or Triple sharing \$ 370

All are welcome for a relaxing and insightful time
of the meditation of the Word and family fun and
bonding together

Register by 29 March 2025 with Dn Paul Tan at 97314733

For registration forms and more details, see Dn Yue Kay or Dn Paul Tan

Memory Verse

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on ***The Spiritual Progression of the Elect (Eph 2:1-12)***, the new quarterly study on the "***Book of Ephesians: Serving Christ & Exalting the Sovereignty of God in the Church***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***The Character of the Christian Church (Eph 2:13-22)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Christian Apologetics (Pastor)
 - Studies in Esther (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. **SHBPC 7th Anniversary Thanksgiving** will be held on **2 Feb 2025**. Do set aside the Sunday to rejoice together. Kindly register with Dn Yue Kay as lunch will be catered.
7. **2025 Annual Church Camp** will be held on **Jun 10-13** at **Forest City Marina Hotel**, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "***Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era***" and guest speaker **Rev Tan Eng Boo**. Register by 29 Mar 2025 with Dn Paul at hp:97314733.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
9. Pray for:
 - **Medical: Kim Meng** [fractured left wrist], **John W's daughter** [dialysis treatment], **Simon** (Devi's husband) [full recovery from fractured ribs due to a fall], **Daniel Phang** [back condition, high blood pressure & gout].
 - **Salvation:** Families of Dn Yue Kay, Dn Paul, Agnes & John W.
 - **Church Camp Committee:** Preparations for June 10-13 Camp at Forest City Marina Hotel.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.